Importance of Assessing Nutritional Health in Patients with MS

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2020 CMSC VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Accreditation and Credit Designation

In support of improving patient care, the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

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Disclosure of Financial Relationships

 The author of this presentation has no financial interest or affiliation with any organizations that could be perceived as a potential conflict of interest concerning the subject of this presentation

Learning Objective(s)

- Define the role of Health Literacy and Food Literacy in health outcomes
- Review tools to facilitate nutrition conversations with patients
- Review nutrition risk indicators beyond BMI
- Review unintended consequences of popular "diets"
- Outline role of Registered Dietitian Nutritionist RDN on MS healthcare team



DOES EATING WELL MEAN SOMETHING DIFFERENT WHEN LIVING WITH MS?

DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK... CONVENTIONAL OR UNCONVENTIONAL

No Diet has been proven to alter the course of Multiple Sclerosis disease process

COMPLEMENT

NATUROPATHY FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE HOLISTIC

ALTERNATIVE

Who did your patient ask?

National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/complementary-alternative-or-integrative-health-whats-in-a-name

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Nutrition Care Process (NCP) is a systematic approach to providing high quality nutrition care. The NCP consists of four distinct, interrelated steps:

Nutrition Assessment: The RDN collects and documents information such as food or nutrition-related history; biochemical data, medical tests and procedures; anthropometric measurements, nutrition-focused physical findings and client history.

Nutrition Diagnosis: Data collected during the nutrition assessment guides the RDN in selection of the appropriate nutrition diagnosis (i.e., naming the specific **problem**).

Nutrition Intervention: The RDN then selects the nutrition intervention that will be directed to the root cause (or etiology) of the nutrition problem and aimed at alleviating the signs and symptoms of the diagnosis.

Nutrition Monitoring/Evaluation: The final step of the process is **monitoring and evaluation**, which the RDN uses to determine if the client has achieved, or is making progress toward, the planned goals (**outcome**).

HEALTH LITERACY, FOOD LITERACY AND HEALTH OUTCOMES

Health Literacy: the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.

Food Literacy: the juncture where community food security and individual food skills intertwine. For an individual or population to be food literate and to fully engage in their food system, an ecological approach is necessary, in that individual behaviors and skills cannot be separated from their environmental or social context. It is theorized that increasing food literacy will lead to increased health and well-being.

Health Outcomes: Health literacy and Food literacy work in conjunction to enable individuals to take ownership over their health and well-being.

GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM

- Community Food Security
- Local food
 - systems
- Programs
- Access
- Affordability
- Availability

- Individual Food Skills
 Knowledge
- LITERACY Access
 - Beliefs
 - Culture

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Cullen. 2015

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

FOOD

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1. PLAN AND MANAGE

1.1 Prioritize money and time for food.

1.2 Plan food intake (formally and informally) so that food can be regularly accessed through some source, irrespective of changes in circumstances or environment.

> 1.3 Make feasible food decisions which balance food needs (e.g. nutrition, taste, hunger) with available resources e.g. time, money, skills, equipment

2. SELECT

2.1 Access food through multiple sources and know the advantages and disadvantages of these.

2.2 Determine what is in a food product, where it came from, how to store it and use it.

2.3 Judge the quality of food

3. PREPARE

3.1 Make a good tasting meal from whatever food is available. This includes being able to prepare commonly available foods, efficiently use common pieces of kitchen equipment and having a sufficient repertoire of skills to adapt recipes (written or unwritten) to experiment with food and ingredients.

3.2 Apply basic principles of safe food hygiene and handling.

4. EAT

4.1 Understand food has an impact on personal wellbeing

4.2 Demonstrate self-awareness of the need to personally balance food intake. This includes knowing foods to include for good health, foods to restrict for good health, and appropriate portion size and frequency.

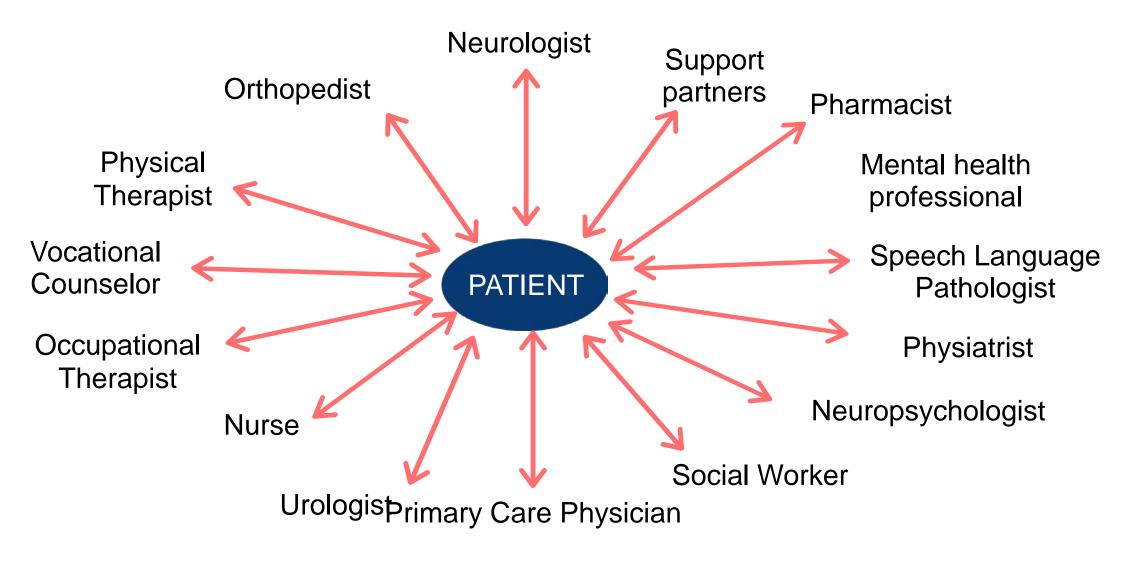
4.3 Join in and eat in a social way.

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Vidgen (2014)

FOOD

LITERACY is the



Katz 2018

DETERMINE CHECKLIST

	YES
I have an illness or condition that made me change the kind and/or amount of food I eat.	2
I eat fewer than 2 meals per day.	3
l eat few fruits or vegetables or milk products.	2
I have 3 or more drinks of beer, liquor or wine almost every day.	2
I have tooth or mouth problems that make it hard for me to eat.	2
I don't always have enough money to buy the food I need.	4
I eat alone most of the time.	1
I take 3 or more different prescribed or over-the-counter drugs a day.	1
Without wanting to, I have lost or gained 10 pounds in the last 6 months.	2
I am not always physically able to shop, cook and/or feed myself.	2
https://nutritionandaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/DetermineNutritionChecklist.pdf	TOTAL
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VEC

CASE STUDY #1: NEWLY DIAGNOSED

- Fearful and anxious about new MS diagnosis
- Overwhelmed by conflicting and confusing nutrition information that family, friends, coworkers are recommending
- What should I be eating or not eating because of MS?
- What supplements should people with MS be taking?
- Is there a Therapeutic Diet for MS?

What is a THERAPEUTIC DIET?

A clinical nutrition intervention/ meal plan that controls the intake of certain foods or nutrients. It is part of the treatment of a medical condition and are normally prescribed by a physician and planned by a dietitian.

Therapeutic diets are modified for:

- Nutrients (sodium, fiber, electrolytes consistent carb, etc)
- Texture (food and or beverage) 2/2 dysphagia
- Food allergies/intolerances (celiac, lactose intolerant)
- Alternate route feeding enteral (in place of or in addition to oral meals) parenteral feeding



THERAPEUTIC DIETS INDICATED FOR MS?



- What outcome are you hoping for?
- What nutrients or foods are you controlling the intake of? Why?
- When you recommend, suggest, prescribe a nutrition intervention, what does your patient understand will be the outcome? Expectation?
- Are you following up with patient to ensure that intervention(s) have been implemented? To ensure comprehension?

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Food and nutrition knowledge/skill deficit related to new Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis and lack of prior exposure to nutrition related information as evidenced by reports of overwhelm and confusion about diet.

CASE STUDY #2: OBESE WITH COMORBID CONDITIONS

- BMI 31.4
- Type 2 Diabetes, Hypertension, elevated blood fats, peri menopause
- Reports having tried LOTS of diets but has been unsuccessful at sustained weight loss/ maintenance over last 25 years.
- Describes herself as a food addict
- Uncomfortable at gym because of MS and body image.
- Has received a few diet handouts from various doctor over the years but nothing seems to have stuck

THE ROLE OF COMORBIDITIES IN MS HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Hypertension
- CVD
- Glucose Control
- Bone Health
- Disordered Eating

There is NO THERAPEUTIC "MS DIET"... however, each of these comorbidities has evidence-based nutrition interventions proven to improve health outcomes.

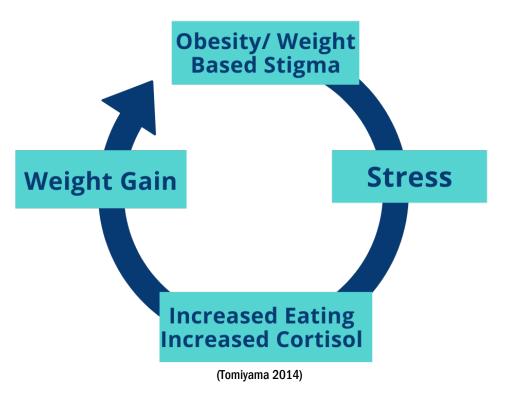
WEIGHT LOSS...

We have lost the war on obesity. Fighting fat hasn't made fat go away. Extensive "collateral damage" has resulted. Food and body preoccupation, self-hatred, eating disorders, discrimination, poor health. Few of us are at peace with our bodies, whether because we're fat or because we fear becoming fat.

Linda Bacon PhD

WHAT IS WEIGHT STIGMA?

- Weight bias or weight-based discrimination
- "A broad range of experiences from minor, everyday instances of differential treatment, or 'microaggressions' (e.g., being treated with less respect than others in subtle ways), to being treated unjustly in specific contexts (e.g., being denied employment)." (Pearl 2018)
- "The social devaluation and denigration of people perceived to carry excess weight, [which] leads to prejudice, negative stereotyping and discrimination toward those people." (Tomiyama 2014)



WEIGHT STIGMA -> HEALTH EFFECTS

Weight stigma in medical settings \rightarrow avoidance of medical care (Phelan et al. 2015)

- Implicit and explicit weight bias from healthcare providers (including dietitians)
- Misdiagnosis and misattribution of symptoms based on weight
- Greater likelihood of being prescribed weight management instead of necessary interventions for actual health conditions
- Lower likelihood of patient following provider recommendations
- Delaying care \rightarrow worse health outcomes and more advanced disease states
- Comorbidity delays diagnosis and increases disability at diagnosis (Marrie 2009)

Doctors = most frequent source of weight stigma reported by women & 2nd most frequent source reported by men (Puhl & Brownell 2006)

False positives & false negatives—smaller-bodied people deemed "healthy," larger-bodied people deemed "sick" (Tylka et al. 2014)

There are several barriers thought to contribute to the underrecognition and undertreatment of obesity. Physicians negative attitudes towards patients with obesity and their view of themselves as not prepared to treat obesity are two such barriers. (Mastrocola 2019)



https://bitemywords.com/2018/07/23/a-smile-doesnt-hide-your-weight-bias/

WEIGHT STIGMA -> HEALTH EFFECTS

Independent health risk factor (Vadiveloo & Mattei 2017):

- Higher levels of weight stigma = more than 2x risk of high allostatic load
- Allostatic load = cumulative effect of chronic stressors on cardiovascular, nervous, and metabolic systems
- Controlled for BMI, so excess risk not explained by body size
- Metabolic and lipid dysregulation
- Impaired glucose metabolism
- ↑ Inflammation
- \uparrow risk for type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and mortality
- WS is greater risk factor than diet
- Equivalent to risk of physical inactivity

Raises cortisol (stress hormone) in experimental settings (Himmelstein et al. 2015) and assoc. w/increased inflammatory markers (Wu & Berry 2018)

WEIGHT STIGMA -> HEALTH EFFECTS

- Greater body dissatisfaction (Wu & Berry 2018)
- Increased risk of disordered eating (Ibid.)
- Increased risk of depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem (lbid.)
- Lower rates of physical activity (Jackson & Steptoe 2017)
- Even people in "normal" BMI range w/high internalized WS experience more frequent illness (Muennig et al. 2008)

WHAT IS WEIGHT CYCLING?

Weight cycling = repeated weight loss and regain

Weight loss interventions (diets, "lifestyle changes," etc.) are ineffective in the long run (Mann et al. 2007)

- Large body of evidence showing that it's very rare for people to "lose weight and keep it off"
- Review of randomized studies w/at least 2 years of follow-up
- Average amount of weight loss maintained is only 2.4 lbs., still "obese" BMI
- \bullet 1/3 to 2/3 of people regain more weight than they lost
- "It is only the rate of weight regain, not the fact of weight regain, that appears open to debate."

WT MANAGEMENT -> WT CYCLING & DISORDERED EATING

Weight-management paradigm:

- With enough effort, people can lose weight and keep it off permanently
- Intentional weight loss (IWL) sets people up for weight cycling
- IWL is not effective in long run (Mann et al. 2007)
- Therefore, efforts at weight management almost inevitably lead to cycles of loss and regain (Tylka et al. 2014)

Typical WL trajectory (Dansinger et al. 2007):

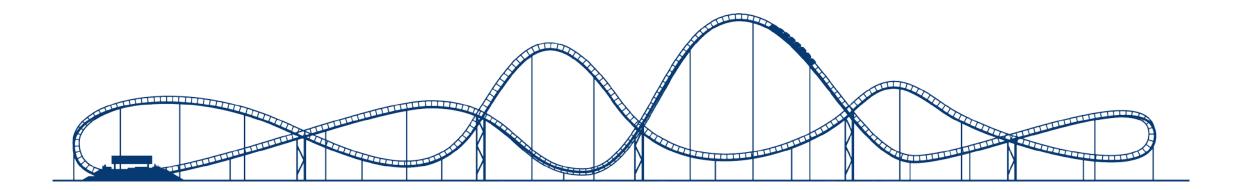
- Weight reaches lowest point ~6 months of IWL intervention
- Starts increasing at about 1 year
- Rate of weight regain speeds up over time

People trying to lose weight are more likely to weight cycle than not.

WT MANAGEMENT -> WT CYCLING & DISORDERED EATING

Efforts not to weight cycle \rightarrow disordered eating

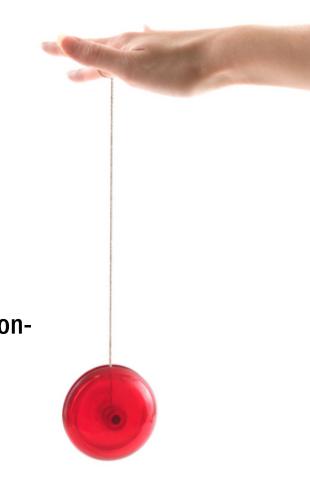
- Trying to achieve and maintain a weight-suppressed state increases risk of binge eating disorder and bulimia nervosa (Tylka et al. 2014)
- Likely because maintaining a weight-suppressed state requires rigid dietary control and often leads to rebound binge eating (Ibid.)



Weight Cycling (WC): Health Effects

WC increases likelihood of binge eating (Field et al. 2004) WC has wide range of physical health risks (Tylka et al. 2014)

- Higher mortality
- Higher risk of osteoporotic fractures and gallstone attacks
- Loss of muscle tissue
- Chronic inflammation
- Some forms of cancer such as renal cell carcinoma, endometrial cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Hypertension
- Heart disease risk



IS THERE A WEIGHT INCLUSIVE APPROACH?

Health At Every Size® (HAES®)

- Developed by group of dietitians & other health professionals in 1990s
- Response to concern w/growing weight stigma in society & medicine
- Designed to help combat disordered eating, chronic dieting, weight- based discrimination, & health disparities
- Interdisciplinary model that includes nutrition, mental health, sociological factors, physical health

Health At Every Size® (HAES®) Principles

Weight Inclusivity: Accept and respect the inherent diversity of body shapes and sizes and reject the idealizing or pathologizing of specific weights.

Health Enhancement: Support health policies that improve and equalize access to information and services, and personal practices that improve human well-being, including attention to individual physical, economic, social, spiritual, emotional, and other needs.

Respectful Care: Acknowledge our biases, and work to end weight discrimination, weight stigma, and weight bias. Provide information and services from an understanding that socio-economic status, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, and other identities impact weight stigma, and support environments that address these inequities.

Health At Every Size® (HAES®) Principles

Eating for Well-being: Promote flexible, individualized eating based on hunger, satiety, nutritional needs, and pleasure, rather than any externally regulated food rules focused on weight control. [Food Literacy, Intuitive Eating,]

Life-Enhancing Movement: Support physical activities that allow people of all sizes, abilities, and interests to engage in enjoyable movement, to the degree that they choose and are able.

HEALTH OUTCOMES OF HAES APPROACH

Better long-term outcomes (Bacon & Aphramor 2011):

- Lower blood pressure
- More favorable lipid profile
- Increased physical activity
- Lower levels of disordered eating
- Better mood
- Increased self-esteem
- Better body image
- Significantly higher retention rates than conventional weight management
- No weight cycling
- Greater resilience to weight stigma

HAES: MEASURES USED TO ASSESS HEALTH OUTCOMES

Everything except weight, BMI, or other body-size / body-composition measurements

- LDL and HDL
- Triglycerides
- Hemoglobin A1C
- Blood pressure
- Dietary recall
- Self-reported physical activity
- Disordered-eating measures
- Body image
- Self-esteem

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF EATING WELL AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ARE INDEPENDENT OF WEIGHT LOSS.

CASE STUDY #2: OBESE WITH COMORBID CONDITIONS

• BMI 31.4

- Type 2 Diabetes, Hypertension, elevated blood fats, peri menopause
- Reports having tried LOTS of diets but has been unsuccessful at sustained weight loss/ maintenance over last 25 years.
- Describes herself as a food addict
- Uncomfortable at gym because of MS and body image concerns.
- Has received a few diet handouts from various doctor over the years but nothing seems to have stuck

Obesity related to lifelong pattern of chronic dieting as evidenced by history of weight cycling >5kg x 5 years.

Altered nutrition related lab values related to food and nutrition related knowledge deficit as evidenced by [HgA1c= 8.4%], [LDL=190], [TG=194], [BP=130/90]



"DIETS" have been used for ages to "control" weight. When one receives a life altering health diagnosis like MS, many turn to "diets" with the desire to "control" the disease process...

WHAT IS ORTHOREXIA?

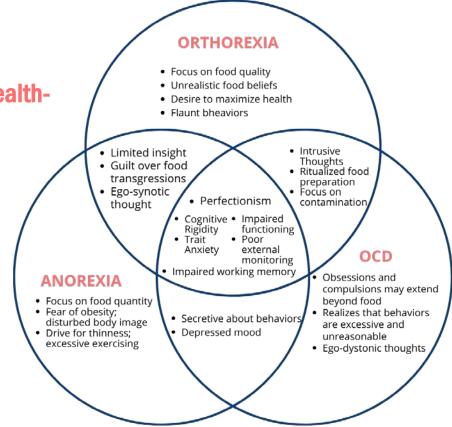
Orthorexia nervosa describes a pathological obsession with proper nutrition that is characterized by a restrictive diet, ritualized patterns of eating, and rigid avoidance of foods believed to be unhealthy or impure (Koven 2015)

Adopt eating habits given a desire to be healthy, natural, or pure, entertaining unrealistic, if not magical, beliefs about certain foods. Often exacerbated by health-related anxiety. (Koven 2015)

Perfectionism, rigid thinking, excessive devotion, hyper-morality, and a preoccupation with details and perceived rules (lbid)

More likely to flaunt their habits. (Ibid)

In a recent survey of psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, and social workers, two-thirds reported having observed patients in their practice presenting with clinically significant orthorexia (Ibid)



CASE STUDY #3: MANAGE MS "NATURALLY"

- Does not trust "Big Pharma"
- Prefers to manage MS "naturally"
- Wants to know what supplements will help "heal the gut"
- Wants guidance on food sensitivities.
- Believes strongly that Food Is Medicine
- Wants guidance on protocols and diets

"DIETS" ARE NOT RISK-FREE INTERVENTIONS

NOUN OR VERB?

- Are there consequences of overly simplistic nutrition recommendations?
- What are your patient's expectations?

INFLAMMATORY

• Have you considered unintended consequences?



INTERMITTENT FASTING

AUTOIMMUNE PROTOCOL



RESTRICTIVE

CASE STUDY #3: MANAGE MS "NATURALLY"

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>

Poor nutrition quality of life related to unsupported beliefs/attitudes about food, nutrition, and nutrition related topics as evidenced by fear of foods or dysfunctional thoughts regarding food or food experiences.

Disordered eating pattern related to disbelief in science-based food and nutrition information as evidenced by avoidance or foods/ food groups and intake of CAM products/dietary supplements that may be unsupported for health

Role of the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist RDN

Conduct a thorough **clinical nutrition assessment** to elucidate nutrition status of patient and Identify malnourished patients and those at nutritional risk

If present, ensure mild, moderate or severe **malnutrition** is included as a complicating condition in **coding process**

Implement comprehensive nutrition intervention and continued monitoring of nutrition status

Provide personally tailored nutrition education and guidance

Educate and help patient engage in **health promoting behaviors** related to improvement of chronic comorbid conditions

Help patient navigate barriers to health, referring to OT, PT, SLP, PsyD or other healthcare provider as appropriate/ warranted.

Actively contribute nutrition expertise and **engage other team members** with assessment data on progress made with nutrition care efforts

CLINICAL IMPACT/BENEFITS

Patient Safety

- Clinical RDNs are conventionally educated and able to provide evidence-based nutrition recommendations.
- RDNs familiar with the unique challenges faced by MS patients can educate around the safe use of complementary modalities

Patient Satisfaction (Bishop 2020)

- Patients have LOTS of questions about nutrition
- They also want/need guidance and support during behavior change

Improved Health Outcomes

 RDNs are trained to assess nutrition status and recommend nutrition interventions to improve health outcomes.

PRACTICE APPLICATIONS

- Consider the Health / Food Literacy of your patients when making nutrition recommendations.
- Implement the DETERMINE checklist to initiate a conversation about nutrition status with your patients that does not focus exclusively on BMI.
- Research HAES, intuitive eating, weight stigma, and weight cycling for yourself.
- BMI is one of many health indicators, consider nutrition interventions to address others.
- RDNs not already familiar with clinical nutrition needs of patients with MS will require education
- Include Registered Dietitian Nutritionist in Interdisciplinary MS Healthcare Team

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Toolkit: The Nutrition Screening Initiative's DETERMINE CHECKLIST and Senior Malnutrition https://nutritionandaging.org/toolkit-the-nutrition-screening-initiatives/

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